

EXPERIENCING THE ANIMACY

Part 1: Encountering God Through Scripture

Introduction: You've Got Mail

You can E _____ the Bible and not E _____ God
John 5:39-40; Matthew 7:21-23

From Paper and Ink to a Personal Rendezvous

1. A L _____ revealing God's heart.
II Peter 1:20,21; II Timothy 3:16-17; I Thessalonians 2:13
2. D _____ to God's workplace.
Matt. 7:17-27, 28:18-20; John 5:17
James 1:22-25; I John 2:3-7
3. A life-saving S _____ T _____ in God's hand.
Hebrews 4:12; John 16:7-8

Close Encounters of the Biblical Kind

What does encountering God "feel" like?

1. C _____
2. Ready for A _____
3. Desire for C _____

Acts 2:37

An Encouragement and a Caution:

Embrace both your *intellect* and *intuition*. God works through both!
Proverbs 22:6, Ecclesiastes 7:18

The Scripture Encounter Experiment

- 1) Get a copy of the Bible that you find E _____ to read
 - The Message, *Recommended by Bono of U2*
 - The Narrated Bible or in paperback, *The Daily Bible- chronologically ordered*
- 2) Set aside Q _____ time – without distractions or disruptions
- 3) Treat your Bible like a W _____
 - Pick a book to focus on – start with the New Testament
 - Possibly start with a biography of Jesus (Luke)
 - Read until something strikes you and then focus on that section
 - Mark it up with a pen – underline, draw symbols, make notes in the margin
- 4) J _____ Your Journey

Write out what you are learning in your own journal:

 - What am I discovering about God and His ways?
 - What am I discovering about myself?
 - What is my next step in following God or moving into his sphere of activity?
- 5) Bring your Q _____ to Church... Home Church that is!

Conclusion: Always running into God?

Joshua 1:6-9

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.
2. Before this week's teaching, when you thought about studying the Bible, what were your feelings?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. According 1 John 2:3-6 and I John 4:16, if we want to have a radical encounter with the love of God, what do we need to do? How might obeying God's commands of love result in a deep experience with God's love? Can you think of a personal experience where you found this to be true? How would you counsel someone who said that they can't show love to those around them until they experienced God's love first?
4. Read Psalm 119:9-16 and point out the writers view of Scripture? How does he see it as a catalyst to a deeper relationship with God? Now if you were God, how would you respond to a person who approached you and the Scriptures this way? How does our passion for God's Word result in God wanting to draw near to us?

SO WHAT?...

5. All of us struggle with not having time for those that really matter. What steps can a person take to carve out quality time to read God's love letter, visit God at his work place, or simply let him do a thorough heart examine?
6. Which of the practical tips listed in the Scripture Encounter Experiment could you make better use of? What step could your Home Church hold you accountable to?

HOMEWORK...

7. This week meditate on I Corinthians 13 as you prepare for next week's message.

Tim Day @ The Meeting House – Sunday, January 12, 2003